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REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR DAVID K.E. BRUCE

BEFORE THE CITY OF LONDON LIVERY CLUB LUNCHEON,

1.30 p.m., NOVEMBER 7, 1962

I am honoured by your courtesy in having me as your guest today.

To all foreigners, the mystique of the City of London is quite ~~special,~~ if slightly confusing. We are told that Greater London, ~~as a capital,~~ represents the largest agglomeration of urban dwellers in the world. But the heart of the Metropolis is the City, ~~and~~ you, in a sense, ~~are~~ Guardians.

I wish there was, in my country, a counterpart to your Livery system, which is political, social and philanthropic. Any one familiar with the hurly-burly of American municipal politics must regard, with a degree of envy, the orderly manner in which you select your chief officials.

In the United States, we have a number of benevolent societies whose purposes of a charitable nature are akin to your own, but whose proceedings are markedly different. There are the Odd Fellows (a deceptive title, for indeed they seem a conventional lot); the Independent Order of Red Men, whose members, except for carrying tomahawks and wearing feathered head-dresses on ceremonial occasions, do not remotely resemble American Indians; the Order of Elks (whose lodges are adorned by cast iron figures of that noble animal); and others too numerous to mention. Some of the rites performed by their members are highly esoteric, and their costumes fantastic in colour and cut.

No transatlantic visitor, even after a cursory visit, could fail to be impressed by the extraordinary traditions of the City of London, its origins lost in antiquity, but certainly dating only a few decades after the birth of Christ.

This small complex of land, a square mile in extent, has been the scene of events so momentous and fascinating as to have affected, in some measure, the lives of all who live in the Western World, as well as those in more remote lands.

I am told that as late as 1800, the resident population of the City was 120,000, though this figure is small when contrasted with the population before the Great Fire. Now it is only a few thousands. But, during the day, it attracts half a million or more persons, whose activities make it powerful and respected throughout the world.

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